



Michael O. Leavitt
Governor of Utah
Chairman

Raymond C. Scheppach
Executive Director

Parris N. Glendening
Governor of Maryland
Vice Chairman

Hall of the States
444 North Capitol Street
Washington, D.C. 20001-1512
Telephone (202) 624-5300
<http://www.nga.org>

June 21, 2000

Senator William V. Roth
Chairman
Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
SD-219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
SH-203 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Congressman Bill Archer
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Congressman Charles B. Rangel
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
1106 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Roth, Senator Moynihan, Chairman Archer, and Congressman Rangel:

On behalf of the nation's Governors, we are writing in support of S. 1900 and H.R. 3700, the High Speed Rail Investment Act, and we encourage the committees to act quickly on this legislation.

The bills authorize Amtrak to sell \$10 billion in high-speed rail bonds between fiscal 2001 and fiscal 2010, and the revenue may be invested in designated high-speed rail corridors to upgrade existing routes to high-speed rail, to construct new dedicated high-speed rail tracks, and to purchase high-speed rail equipment. Up to ten percent of the funds would be available to improve non-high-speed rail service nationwide.

Governors support the development of federal high-speed rail programs, which would use federal funding to leverage private and other resources to aid states in the development of high-speed and regional rail corridors across the country.

Under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA 21), states will play an increasingly larger role in the development and implementation of both passenger and freight rail, including high-speed rail corridors, commuter rail, intercity passenger rail, intermodal linkages, and shortline and regional freight rail development. Governors strongly support both new and revived efforts that are taking place nationwide in the development of passenger and freight rail.

Sincerely,

Governor Jim Hodges, South Carolina
Chairman
Committee on Economic Development
and Commerce

Governor John G. Rowland, Connecticut
Vice Chairman
Committee on Economic Development
and Commerce